

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 13 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 6, 14 and 15 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

Claims 17-26 stand allowed. Claims 3, 4, 6-12, 15, and 16 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed to be otherwise allowable. Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) based on European Patent application no. EP 0797149 of Mohamed et al. ("Mohamed"). Claims 1, 2, 5, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent no. 6,564,311 of Kakeda et al. ("Kakeda"). Claims 1-26 are further rejected for non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting based on the parent patent, U.S. Patent no. 6,728,858.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 17-26 and the indicated allowability of dependent claims 3, 4, 6-12, 15, and 16. As to the rejected claims, Applicants disagree with the rejections and the Examiner's response to Applicants' previous remarks. However, Applicants have amended the independent claims to incorporate subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3 (canceled); independent claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 6; and independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 14 and 15.

Therefore, allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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